

Office of Community Development
Disaster Recovery Unit
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

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State accepting public comments on plan to reallocate funds from completed recovery programs to rental property repair program, clarify planning program language

BATON ROUGE — The State of Louisiana is accepting public comments on an Action Plan Amendment that reallocates a total of \$1,107,652.21 from five completed housing recovery programs to an ongoing rental property repair program, and also corrects a typographical error from a previous action plan.

The reallocation of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funding proposed in APA 66 is necessary because the following five programs are now complete and have entered the closeout process: Housing Development Loan Fund, Support for Faith-Based and Community-Based Housing Recovery, Rapid Rehousing, St. Tammany Soft Seconds Mortgage and St. Bernard First Time Homebuyer.

The transfer of the remaining funds to the Small Rental Property Repair Program is necessary as a result of a continued need to fully fund existing small rental projects and to maintain a robust monitoring function to ensure that all participants are brought into compliance with programmatic and CDBG-DR guidelines.

“These housing programs have been successful in providing quality, affordable workforce housing and housing support services in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita,” said Pat Forbes, executive director of the Louisiana Office of Community Development. “Moving funds from completed programs into other recovery investments will allow us to continue to help as many of our residents as possible who need affordable rental housing.”

A breakdown of the reallocation is shown in the following table:

Program	Previous Total	Reallocation	New Total	% Change
Housing Development Loan Fund	\$6,689,653.99	(\$1,079,582.86)	\$5,610,071.13	(16.1%)
Support for Faith-Based and Community-Based Housing Recovery	\$1,940,916.21	(\$8,982.50)	\$1,931,933.71	(<1%)
Rapid Rehousing	\$4,890,795.43	(\$516)	\$4,890,279.43	(<1%)
Soft Seconds Mortgage	\$72,600,000	(\$151.85)	\$72,599,848.15	(<1%)
First Time Homebuyer Pilot	\$39,100,000	(\$18,419)	\$39,081,581	(<1%)
Small Rental Property Repair	\$232,300,000	\$1,107,652.21	\$233,407,652.21	<1%

In addition, a clarification to the total funding amount in the Planning Initiatives Program is necessary because the state has discovered a typographical error in its May 2008 APA 22, which added \$3 million to a previous total of \$12.5 million. This should bring the total allocation to \$15.5 million. However, the budget transcribed in APA 22 included a miscalculation.

This amendment is considered substantial because the reallocation of funds from the Housing Development Loan Fund program is greater than 15 percent of the program's total allocation of funds, which triggers a substantial amendment under the state's initial Action Plan for Recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This amendment does not create a new program and does not change eligible beneficiaries.

The formal public comment period for the plan begins today, July 29 and runs until 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, 2016. After accepting public comments, the state will submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for final federal approval. A copy of the plan can be requested by calling 225.219.9600.

Members of the public can submit comments several ways:

- Using the online form at http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action_Plans.aspx ;
- Emailing them to ocd@la.gov;
- Mailing them to Disaster Recovery Unit, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett; or
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at 225.219.9605.

The Disaster Recovery Unit within the Office of Community Development is dedicated to helping Louisiana's citizens recover from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac. As the state's central point for hurricane recovery, the OCD-DRU manages the most extensive rebuilding effort in American history, working closely with local, state and federal partners to ensure that Louisiana recovers safer, stronger and smarter than before.